

CABINET DECISIONS – 28 JULY 2017

1. Cabinet has taken note of the main findings and recommendations of the study to Reengineer the Public Transport Industry in Mauritius carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited (PwC). The recommendations cover all modes of transport, including buses and taxis, as well as the role of informal operators, while also considering the changes required to prepare the industry for the upcoming Metro Express Project. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport proposes to implement a number of measures immediately, including the review of the existing formula for computation of payments under the Free Travel Scheme; encourage operators to develop new services; the implementation of an integrated fare mechanism and a cashless system; and the elaboration of a master plan with special focus on rerouting of bus services and route rationalisation.

2. Cabinet has taken note of the introduction of an Online Monitoring System to effectively coordinate and monitor the timely and smooth implementation of the measures and the projects announced in Budget Speech 2017-2018, and eliminate bottlenecks.

3. Cabinet has taken note that the group *Les Frères Joseph* has won gold medal for their dance entitled “*Di Sel*”, in the category *danse de création* of the 8th Edition of the *Jeux de La Francophonie*, currently being held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast.

4. Cabinet has taken note that the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives would promulgate the Cooperatives (Annual Revenue of Society) Regulations, under the Cooperatives Act 2016, to provide for a Cooperative Society in a defined class with an annual revenue not exceeding the prescribed amount to appoint the Principal Cooperative Auditor as auditor, namely Rs5m for Cooperative Societies in the consumer and retail trade class, and Rs1m for Cooperative Societies in other classes.

5. Cabinet has taken note that Innovtech Rodrigues 2017 would be held from 4 to 6 August 2017. The objectives of Innovtech Rodrigues 2017 are to –

- (a) increase awareness in Rodrigues on emerging technologies;
- (b) sensitise on the potential applications of ICT and on career opportunities in the ICT sector;
- (c) promote and encourage ICT literacy; and
- (d) bring Government services closer to the people by providing accessible and integrated online public services.

6. Cabinet has agreed to Government making a contribution of USD10,000 to assist the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the humanitarian crisis prevailing due to severe drought conditions since February 2017.

7. Cabinet has taken note that the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities would make the Radiation Protection (Licensing and Registration) Regulations, under the Radiation Protection Act, to provide, among others, for –

- (a) the registration of any radiation source within 30 days of the date of its acquisition;
- (b) the procedures for obtaining a licence; and
- (c) assigning prime responsibility for safety and security to the radiation users.

8. Cabinet has taken note that the Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, which has been registered as a tertiary Cooperative Society under the Cooperatives Act 2016, would shortly be operational as the apex body of the Mauritius Cooperative Movement. The Alliance would, inter alia, act as the mouthpiece, and represent and defend the general interest of the Movement, promote cooperation among cooperative societies, encourage cooperative development, and ensure the adoption of good governance practices and ethical conduct in the societies.

9. Cabinet has taken note that the third edition of the UNESCO-MERCK Africa Research Summit would be held in Mauritius in November 2017. The Summit will serve as a platform for deliberation on research being undertaken to deal with and prevent cancer, and foster vaccine development to address infectious diseases affecting the African region with focus on “*The role of Scientific Research in responding to Cancer and Vaccines development - Two emerging challenges in Africa*”. Participants from academia, research institutions, international funding organisations of health and medical research, representatives of Medical Councils, non-governmental organisations, emerging and established researchers, scientists would attend the Summit.

10. Cabinet has taken note that, in the context of the World Breastfeeding Week, commemorated in the first week of August, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life would organise a workshop to train health personnel on the importance of breastfeeding, and counselling and support to breastfeeding mothers, and strengthen the sensitisation campaigns on the benefits of breastfeeding. The theme of the World Breastfeeding Week for this year is “**Sustaining Breastfeeding Together**”.

11. Cabinet has taken note of the outcome of the recent mission of the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping to Madagascar where he attended the Ministerial Conference for Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fisheries in the South-West Indian Ocean. The Conference recommended, among others, –

- (a) the implementation of a ban on all transshipment at sea in the area covered by the Regional Fisheries Surveillance Plan;
- (b) the harmonization of the provisions of national legislation on combatting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and
- (c) the prohibition of access to the port to any vessel which does not comply with international obligations.
